

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH:EVC:CSA
APPROVED BY EA-MR. HOLBROOKE
EA-MR. GLEYSTEEEN
S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER
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O 020146Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 287616

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, OREP (BOETTCHER, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFDEL
INVESTIGATIVE MISSION

REF: A. SEOUL 10120; B. STATE 286533

1. WE UNDERSTAND AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PROBLEMS AND
DILEMMAS WHICH YOU POSE IN YOUR CABLE. THERE IS, HOWEVER,
VERY LITTL: ROOM FOR FLEXIBILITY IN REGARD TO HOW WE
TREAT THE BOETTCHER GROUP IN KOREA. THE RISKS AND PRICE
THAT WE WILL PAY FOR ALLEGATIONS OF NON-COOPERATION BY THE
EMBASSY FAR EXCEED THE RISKS AND PRICE WE MAY PAY IN THE
OTHER DIRECTION IF WE GO THROUGH THE NORMAL PROCEDURES
THAT WE WOULD FOLLOW IN SUPPORT OF A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF
GROUP.

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2. WE THEREFORE WISH YOU TO GIVE THE SAME SORT OF SUPPORT
THAT A NORMAL CONGRESSIONAL VISIT WOULD RECEIVE. WE
WOULD RELY ON YOU TO CALIBRATE THIS CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO
CONVEY TO THE AMERICANS THAT WE ARE DOING WHAT AN EMBASSY
NORMALLY DOES FOR AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF CONGRESSIONAL
VISITORS WHILE CONVEYING TO THE KOREANS THAT WE MUST GO

THROUGH THESE REGULAR PROCEDURES. IF THE KOREANS DO NOT WISH TO MAKE CERTAIN PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO THE VISITORS,

THEN THIS SHOULD NOT BECOME SOMETHING WHICH THEY CAN HOLD THE EMBASSY ACCOUNTABLE FOR.

4. WE HAVE CONTACTED BOETTCHER REGARDING THE DELICACY OF THE STAFFDEL PURSUING TONGSUN PARK AT THIS TIME (REF B). HE HAS PROMISED THAT THIS CONCERN WILL BE RESPECTED. APPROACH HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE THROUGH HUNDLEY, WHO WAS TO HAVE TRANSMITTED APPOINTMENT REQUEST TO PARK. BOETTCHER WAS NOT SANGUINE THAT PARK WOULD MEET WITH THEM, BUT IF PARK DOES PROPOSE AN APPOINTMENT WHILE STAFFDEL IS IN SEOUL AS A RESULT OF HUNDLEY COMMUNICATION, BOETTCHER INDICATED STAFFDEL WOULD ARRANGE TO BE BUSY WITH OTHER MATTERS.

5. BOETTCHER ALSO INFORMS US THAT STAFFDEL TRIP TO SEOUL WILL NOT BE MEASURED BY NUMBER OF KOREANS INTERVIEWED, SINCE IT IS RECOGNIZED MANY ON LIST PROVIDED TO EMBASSY MAY NOT BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED. LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN MILITARY TO BE INTERVIEWED WILL TAKE MUCH OF STAFFDEL TIME. LIST OF MILITARY APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED IS BEING SENT TO CINCUNC THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS, INFO TO EMBASSY.

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6. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH YOU, STAFFDEL WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MEET WITH BILL CLARKE AND JOHN BENNETT, AND WITH DENNIS BARRETT (AID) AND GORDON NICKS (AGATT). VANCE

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